

parent to child is one of sacrifice. The interests of children and parents are antagonistic. The fact that there are, or may be, compensations does not affect the primary relation between the two. It may well be believed that, if procreation had not been put under the dominion of a great passion, it would have been caused to cease by the burdens it entails. Abortion and infanticide are especially interesting because they show how early in the history of civilization the burden of children became so heavy that parents began to shirk it, and also because they show the rise of a population policy, which is one of the most important programmes of practical expediency which any society ever can adopt.

**318.** Population policy. At the present moment the most civilized states do not know whether to stimulate or restrict population ; whether to encourage immigration or not; whether emigration is an evil or a blessing; whether to tax bachelors or married men. These questions are discussed as if absolute answers to them were possible, independently of differences in life conditions. In France the restriction of population

has  
entered into the mores, and  
has been accomplished by  
the  
people, from motives which  
lie in the standard of living.  
In  
New England the same is  
true, perhaps to a greater  
extent.  
There are many protests  
against these mores, on the  
ground  
that they will produce societal  
weakness and decay, and  
ethical  
condemnation is freely  
expended upon them by  
various schools  
of religious and philosophical  
ethics. What is certain,  
however,  
is that in the popular ethics  
of the people who practice  
re-  
striction it is regarded as  
belonging to elementary  
common  
sense. The motives are  
connected with economy and  
social  
ambition. The restriction on  
the number of children, in  
all  
modern civilized society,  
issues in an improvement of  
the quality  
of the children, so far as that  
can be improved by care,  
educa-  
tion, travel, and the  
expenditure of capital (sec.  
320). Thus the  
problem of rearing children  
has pressed upon mankind  
from the  
earliest times until to-day. It is  
a problem of the last degree  
of  
simplicity and reality, — a  
problem of a task and the  
strength to  
perform it, of an expenditure  
and the means to meet it.  
For the